

APPROVED

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Senate Executive Committee
Minutes
Monday, October 12, 2015

Present: Chair Gay Miller, Abbas Aminmansour, Michael Bohlmann, Nicholas Burbules, Bettina Francis, John Hart, Matthew Hill, Calvin Lear, William Maher, Anita Mixon, Kathryn Oberdeck, David O'Brien, Michael Sandretto

Absent: Vice Chair Kim Graber, Prasanta Kalita, Matthew Wheeler

Guests: Interim Chancellor Barbara Wilson, Associate Chancellor Reginald Alston, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Academic Policies Abbas Benmamoun, Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Edward Feser, Associate Provost for Administrative Affairs Katherine Galvin, Graduate Student in Accountancy Shawn Gordon, AAUP Local Chapter President Harry Hilton, Associate Chancellor for Public Affairs Robin Kaler, Faculty and Academic Staff Benefits Chair John Kindt, Undergraduate Student in Political Science Matthew Rice, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Renee Romano, Vice Chancellor for Research Peter Schiffer, Academic Human Resources Director Deborah Stone

Media: Daily Illini – Maggie Sullivan, Inside Illinois – Mike Helenthal and Brian Stauffer, News-Gazette – Julie Wurth

A regular meeting of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) was called to order at 3:10 pm on Monday, October 12, 2015 in 232 English Building, with Chair Miller presiding.

1. Introductions

Introductions were made.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from September 14, 2015 were approved as amended.

3. Chair's Remarks

Chair Miller reported that Vice President Christophe Pierre sent a letter indicating that the Nondiscrimination Statement, which is included in the University *Statutes* and *General Rules*, needs to be updated in order to be in compliance with state and federal law.

The lack of a state budget continues to be a concern for the University of Illinois.

Chair Miller sent a letter to Interim Chancellor Wilson and Interim Provost Feser about the importance of shared governance. The letter requested that if Wilson or Feser plan to ask for input from faculty, the request be made early, genuinely, and involve appropriate faculty. Both Wilson and Feser were very supportive of Miller's letter.

CIC (Committee on Institutional Cooperation) Faculty Governance Leadership Conference that was hosted by the Urbana campus included 33 participants from 12 different institutions. The conference was well received by the attendees. A couple of attendees suggested that the CIC Senates support the University of Iowa Faculty Senate's vote of no confidence in the Iowa Board of Regents after the most recent presidential search.

President's Executive Leadership Program (PELP) hosts 13 fellows across the three campuses. Chair Miller is one of the participants from the Urbana campus. Some of the items from the Urbana campus that were presented to the fellows include NCSA, Blue Waters, and Research Park presentations.

Proposed revisions to the University of Illinois Non-Discrimination Statement were sent to the Senates for review. The revisions are meant to bring the statement into compliance with current state law. The Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures (USSP) will review the suggested revisions.

4. Chancellor's Remarks

Interim Chancellor Wilson noted continued concern that with the lack of a state budget. President Killeen sent out an email recently that was jointly written by institutions across the state.

Wilson is working with Vice Chancellor Romano to meet with different student groups each month to hear what students are passionate about.

The Chez Family Foundation Center for Wounded Veterans in Higher Education has officially opened. The Center for Wounded Veterans is a one of a kind facility that provides services to student veterans and their families, and also conducts research connected to improving services to veterans.

Our campus continues to open winter courses during the four week session in January. Last year all winter courses were filled in four to five minutes. There are currently 21 courses offered. More colleges are getting involved with offering winter courses.

Homecoming is in two weeks. Bill Geist is the grand marshal of this year's homecoming parade.

Wilson is working diligently on the AAUP (American Association of University Professors) censure. Wilson has met with over 40 department heads and department chairs on the issue. Wilson also met with local the local AAUP chapter and has had email exchange with the national AAUP chapter. President Killeen and Interim Chancellor Wilson are committed to lifting the censure. The earliest the censure could be lifted is summer 2016.

5. Old Business

A. SC.15.12 Open Access to Research Articles

The Senate Committee on General University Policy (GUP) and the Senate Committee on the Library were both supportive of the proposed policy on Open Access to Research Articles. Both committees also agreed that a webpage should be developed internally about policies for faculty and also a public webpage to inform the public about the policies.

Burbules made a motion to send a formal proposal to the October 19 Senate meeting recommending approval of the proposed policy on Open Access to Research Articles to the Senate. The motion was seconded and approved by voice.

B. SC.15.13 Background Check Policy

GUP Chair Burbules reported that the GUP committee did not vote on the campus implementation policy because the implementation process has not been finalized.

GUP suggested consultation with the unit and with the dean be included in the process. Other suggestions included limiting participation of faculty members on the review committee to full professors, the review should be blind with the name stripped, and campus safety concerns in relation to background checks.

Most other campuses do not include faculty in their review committees including UIC and UIS. The GUP committee approved sending a letter to Vice President Pierre about concerns with the university level policy. Burbules felt that if the conversation surrounding background checks would have started with safety, this policy would have been received differently.

Chair of the Senate Committee on Equal Opportunity and Inclusion (EQ), Oberdeck noted that the EQ committee communicated a lot of input from the EQ committee to Provost Feser and Vice Provost Benmamoun. Oberdeck summarized the draft EQ response document that was distributed. Implementation is inevitable, EQ want to limit damage to candidates and units, and want concerns about discrimination addressed.

Concern was expressed that the EQ document appears to be contradictory in that the policy is referred to as discriminatory, yet the document goes on to recommend methods of implementation. EQ felt the document was contradictory as well. EQ was presented with an implementation plan and were asked

to comment on a policy that was mandated by the Board of Trustees. The campus wants to implement the policy in a way that shows the University as a model employer and even though background check are mandated, the University hires candidates based on merit. Candidates that have activity reported from the background check will have an opportunity to respond and provide additional information about the reported criminal activity. Collecting data on the effects of implementing background checks was suggested. There should be a systematic effort to collect data, not just anecdotal.

Feser, Benmamoun, and Stone reiterated that background checks are only done domestically. Background checks for international applicants only include domestic data. International checks will not be replicated for international applicants because they would have already gone through the State Department process. Stone added that an international check will not be completed for non-citizens. When asked how applicants that are US citizens and have lived internationally will be handled Stone replied that she would need to contact the background check vendor.

A motion was made to transmit the EQ document to Vice President Pierre. The motion seconded and discussion followed. The motion was amended to only send Vice President Pierre the first four paragraphs of the EQ document. The motion was seconded and approved.

C. SC.15.14 Assessment of the *ad hoc* Licensing Advisory Committee

GUP Chair Burbules reported that the GUP committee is assessing the ad hoc LAC and is expecting a revised mission statement from the LAC Chair.

D. SC.16.09 USC Retreat

Wheeler, the University Senates Conference (USC) representative to the SEC, was unable to attend today's meeting. Burbules, as Chair of the USC, reported that the USC approved a resolution giving the three Senates the opportunity to provide meaningful feedback on the Background Check Policy. USC has continually requested a response from the Board of Trustees to the proposed governing document changes that were transmitted to the Senate's by the Board for the Senates' advice last academic year. The Senates have provided the requested advice, but have not received a response to that advice. USC held a retreat and discussed strategic planning. The USC will draft recommendations in the strategic planning process and will send the recommendations to the Senates. Burbules believes the Senates should be active and move forward with making recommendation rather than waiting for the Board to send a request to the Senates.

E. SC.16.11 Freedom of Expression Letter from FIRE

As Chair of the Senate Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure (AFT), O'Brien noted that AFT is scheduled to meet this Wednesday and plans to discuss the letter from FIRE (Foundation for Individual Rights in Education).

F. SC.16.08 Campus-wide Advice on Proper Use of Electronic Communications for University Business
None.

G. SC.16.12 Coal Divestiture

Chair Miller noted the coal divestiture report in the meeting materials. Miller recommended sending the report to student group that had requested the report. A motion was made to send the report to the student group. The motion was seconded and discussion followed. Lear amended the motion by adding that the report also be on the October 19 Senate agenda as a report. The motion to amend was seconded and approved. The amended motion was approved by unanimous consent and the report will appear on the October 19 Senate agenda.

6. New Business

A. Setting of the October 19, 2015 Senate agenda

The October 19 Senate agenda will include the EQ document and GUP letter to Vice President Pierre. The October 19 Senate agenda was approved as amended.

B. SC.16.15 Proposed Voting Schedule for the Search Committee to Advise the President on the Selection of a Chancellor

Chair Miller presented the proposed voting schedule. Burbules made a motion to note on the ballot whether the nomination was from the Senate Committee on Committees or if the nomination was submitted during the open nomination period. The motion was seconded and discussion followed.

The motion to distinguish the source of the nomination failed by show of hands.

The voting schedule was approved as distributed.

C. SC.16.16 State Employees' Group Insurance Program

Graber reported that USC drafted a letter of concern about suspension of payment for some employee health plans. The letter was sent to the Governor, several legislators, the Daily Illini, News-Gazette, and others.

D. SC.16.17 Statement of Support for the Faculty Senate of the University of Iowa

Lear noted that a statement was drafted by several of the attendees at the CIC Faculty Governance Leadership Conference. The statement is in response to the concern surrounding the selection of the president at the University of Iowa. Other members of the CIC Senates have voted in favor of supporting the Faculty Senate of the University of Iowa by endorsing the statement of support.

Burbules made a motion to send a proposal to the October 19 Senate meeting recommending support of the Faculty Senate of the University of Iowa with SEC's endorsement. The motion was seconded and discussion followed.

Hart moved to amend the motion by suggesting SEC act on behalf of the Senate and approve endorsement of the statement in support of the Faculty Senate of the University of Iowa. The motion was seconded, and after further discussion the motion failed.

The motion to send the proposal to the October 19 Senate meeting with SEC's endorsement was approved unanimously.

E. SC.16.18 Recommendation of a Faculty Member to Assist with the Selection of a Search Firm for the Chancellor Search

Oberdeck will assist with the selection of a search firm for the chancellor search.

F. SC.16.19 Academic Council Statement on Academic Freedom and Civility – Univ. of California

Miller recommended the statement be referred to AFT for review. Hearing no objections, the statement was referred to AFT.

G. SC.16.20 Guidelines for Senate Meetings

Miller recommended referring the guidelines to USSP for review. Hearing no objections, the guidelines were referred to USSP.

7. Announcements/Verbal Reports for Information

None.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:01 pm.

Jenny Roether
Clerk of the Senate